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Understanding negative symptoms

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Curriculum vitae

Nicky Klaasen was born on October 12, 1987 in Leiderdorp, the Netherlands. She finished her secondary education at the Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden in 2006, after which she studied Psychology at the University of Groningen. Being particularly interested in the link between human brain function and behavior as well as experimental methods used to characterize this association, she continued her academic education with the master's program Brain and Behavior at the University of Groningen. Her master's thesis project introduced her to the Cognitive Neuropsychiatry group of Prof. Dr. André Aleman. During this project, she studied functional brain connectivity during emotion regulation in first-degree relatives of patients with schizophrenia under the supervision of Dr. Jorien van der Velde and Prof. Dr. André Aleman. Concurrently, she worked for the Prison Project, a research project of Leiden University, coordinating and administering interviews with prisoners and prison personnel at the prisons in Ter Apel and Leeuwarden.

After obtaining her master's degree in 2012, she decided to continue in functional neuroimaging research as a PhD student in the CNP group, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. André Aleman and Dr. Esther Opmeer. Her PhD project was part of the Apathy Study and concerned setting up and carrying out two studies on the neural underpinnings of apathy, in close collaboration with the other members of the Apathy research team. Although recruitment for the Apathy Study is ongoing, several chapters of this thesis include results from this extensive project.